Smart Awards Level 2 SA002- Underground Safety

SPECIFICATION

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Introduction

This qualification covers two modules: Gas Testing and Cover Lifting. Learners are provided with the knowledge and skills to identify the hazards and potential risks involved in working safely on or in proximity to underground structures and operational buildings.

This qualification particularly is aimed at those individuals who undertake work in a telecommunication (or similar utility) environment. It also enables learners to gain knowledge of compliance with Health and Safety legislation. This qualification tests learners' knowledge, skills, and understanding of dangers associated with these works and the safety precautions required while working in the underground network.

This qualification does not qualify an individual to enter a confined space. Those individuals who need to enter confined spaces MUST hold appropriate accreditation/accreditation to enter confined spaces. Any references made in this material to confined spaces are for information only and to make learners aware of the risks and presence of gases that may also be present in confined spaces.

Key Information	
Name	Smart Awards Level 2 SA002 Underground Safety
Accreditation	This qualification is approved by: • SQA Accreditation. Qualification number R639 04 • Ofqual: Qualification number 603/7546/02
Level	2
Duration	1 day
Guided Learning Hours (Ofqual)	8
Time/Notional Learning Hours (SQA Accreditation)	8
Ofqual Total Qualification	10
RQF - Ofqual Credit -Credit value represents the size of a unit which is determined by the learning time. One credit = 10 hours of notional learning.	1
Age	16 Plus
Qualification Type	Vocationally Related Qualification
Smart Awards Product Area	Safety Qualifications
Sector Subject Area	6.1 – Digital technology (practitioners)
Certification	This qualification is valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of certificate issue. To remain compliant and eligible to work on telecommunications networks, individuals must renew their qualification before the expiry date.

Network Operative Passport Scheme (NOPS)	This qualification is fully aligned with the requirements of the Network Operative Passport Scheme (NOPS). Successful completion of this qualification is recorded within the NOPS system, ensuring operatives are visible and verifiable to employers and site access systems across the industry.
Prerequisites and Entry Requirements	There are no formal entry requirements and Smart Awards will not restrict access on the grounds of prior academic attainment, employment, geographic location, or any other grounds. There are no barriers to access or progression, supporting inclusivity and equal opportunity for all learners. Learners must have a basic understanding of the English language for regulated qualifications that are approved by Ofqual or SQA Accreditation. Please note: The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) requires at least one person on site to hold a Street Works card to work on the highway. This Smart Awards accreditation is based on a pre-requisite that any work on the highway requires appropriate Street Works accreditation to be held by an individual working on site, and that this individual is qualified to check that the planned provision of footways, traffic lanes and safety zones determined by the site survey meets with the requirements of the site location and approved procedures and practices required by the NRSWA 1991. Some companies' policies may vary where more than one person on site is required to hold a valid Street Works card.
Mandatory units and optional routes to completion.	Learners must complete the Underground Safety unit in full to achieve this qualification. No optional units or routes are available.
Additional requirements to achieve this qualification.	None
Methods of Assessment	This qualification will be assessed through a practical and theory test. The aim of the assessment is to ensure successful learners have adequate knowledge and understanding of working underground in a telecommunications environment. Assessment guidance, assessor requirements and additional qualification documentation is supplied to approved Smart Awards centres via Quartz.
Theory test	Learners are required to pass a 20-question multiple-choice test, with questions randomly selected from a secure question bank to ensure comprehensive coverage of all assessment criteria. The test is timed, and learners will have 30 minutes to complete it. All multiple-choice tests are conducted online via the Smart Awards online assessment platform.
Practical assessment	During the practical assessment, the learner will demonstrate competency when performing all pre works checks, setting up the site and safely entering an underground chamber, then clearing the site. The learner will have 30 minutes to complete the practical assessment
Grading	Learners will be graded (Fail or Pass) on an achievement or non-achievement basis. The final grade will be determined by collective performance in the two assessment tools (theory and practical).

	Learners are required to achieve both the theory and practical assessments to achieve the qualification. • Theory - To achieve a pass, 80% or more is required. • Practical - If one major fault is given the learner will automatically fail. • Learners must receive fewer than six minor faults to pass the practical assessment. If there are major health and safety failures due to learners' actions or understanding, the assessment MUST be stopped. The learner should be taken to a suitable area to be explained the reason for stopping the assessment and that his assessment is deemed as failed. Guidance on the major failures that should result in stopping the assessment is provided in the practical assessment.
Reasonable adjustments and special considerations	Smart Awards approved centres that have learners with specific requirements should refer to the Smart Awards Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and Procedure. This document outlines the support available to ensure fair access to assessments. It can be found on the Smart Awards website at www.smartawards.co.uk
Recognition of Prior Learning	Smart Awards is committed to supporting Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and has established a dedicated policy and set of procedures to guide and assist approved centres in its implementation. The full policy is available on the Smart Awards website at www.smartawards.co.uk
Required resources and site requirements for delivering this Qualification	To ensure a safe and effective learning and assessment environment, the following site requirements must be met for the delivery of the SA002 Underground Safety qualification: • Access to a suitable training area that simulates real-world underground telecoms environments, including chambers, duct, or other relevant infrastructure. • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by all learners and assessors, including safety helmets, high-visibility clothing, gloves, and appropriate footwear. • The site must comply with current health and safety regulations, including safe access/egress, signage, and emergency procedures. • Adequate first aid provision must be available on-site throughout the training and assessment period. • The site must provide access to classroom or indoor facilities for the delivery of theoretical content and the completion of the online multiple-choice assessment.

Qualification Structure

The Level 2 Underground Safety qualification consists of one mandatory unit, which learners must complete to achieve the qualification. Attainment at Level 2 demonstrates the learner's ability to apply relevant knowledge, skills, and procedures to carry out clearly defined tasks and resolve straightforward problems with appropriate direction or supervision.

SMART AWARDS LEVEL 2 in SA002 UNDERGROUND SAFETY • Ofqual: Qualification number 603/7546/02 • SQA Accreditation. Qualification number R639 04								
Minimum TQT for this pathway = 10 Minimum number of credits = 1 Minimum number of units = 1				Minimum number of GLH = 8 Minimum number of assessment time = 1 Other learning time = 1				
Unit Number	Unit title	Level	M/O	GLH	ASS	OTHER LEARNING	TQT	CREDITS
J/618/7223	Underground Safety	2	M	8	1	1	10	1

Learner Support and Assessment Conditions

Learners will have access to support throughout the training period via their trainer. Trainers are responsible for ensuring that each learner is adequately prepared and competent before presenting them for assessment.

No support or assistance may be given to the learner during either the theory or practical assessments, to maintain the integrity and validity of the qualification.

Qualification objectives and requirements

This qualification confirms that the learner has demonstrated the required competence to work safely in the telecommunications underground network. To successfully obtain this qualification, the learners will need to demonstrate the knowledge and ability requirements set out in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Unit Reference	J/618/7223
Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Be able to work safely	1.1. Identify the hazards and risks associated with the working area and the proposed work. 1.2. Work in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice. 1.3. Use correct personal protective equipment (PPE). 1.4. Undertake equipment and tool safety checks. 1.5. Carry out work to minimise environmental damage.
2. Be able to carry out gas testing safely	2.1. Carry out a site-specific risk assessment 2.2. Use safe method adopted by industry for testing gas in chambers and operational buildings. 2.3. Use testing tools and equipment in accordance with work instructions. 2.4. Check condition of gas testing tools and equipment. 2.5. Perform gas and water test safely.
3. Be able to demonstrate safe methods of testing for lifting covers before working underground	3.1. Use correct manual handling methods. 3.2. Use tools and equipment used in the industry for lifting covers from joint boxes and manholes safely. 3.3. Remove and replace joint box and carriageway covers safely. 3.4. Use utility prints to aid in the location of chambers.
4. Know relevant health and safety legislation and industry good practice	4.1. Outline the key health and safety legislation and industry good practice. 4.2. Outline the key health and safety regulations that need to be observed when working underground.

Unit Reference	J/618/7223
Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
	4.3. Describe how to use and maintain tools, equipment, and personal protective equipment. 4.4. Outline the emergency planning procedures relevant to the work area.
5. Know the hazards of working in underground chambers or structures	5.1. State the dangers when entering underground chambers or structures. 5.2. Outline the equipment used by industry for detecting gas. 5.3. Describe what needs to be done if gas is found. 5.4. State the types of gases. 5.5. State safe working in locations which, potentially, have hazardous gas. 5.6. Outline the reporting requirements where gas has been found. 5.7. Outline the requirements for water testing. 5.8. Describe how to keep own safety and safety of others.
6. Know how to carry out cover lifting safely	6.1. State how to manage the risks associated with cover lifting. 6.2. State how to avoid injury to operatives and the general public. 6.3. Outline the different covers used. 6.4. Describe how to identify polluted water in underground structures in line with environmental requirements. 6.5. State how to avoid damage to underground apparatus.